

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, PPS

DATE: 21 February 1957

FROM : Chief, LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report No. 8

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Special Qualifications Review Panels are scheduled this week to consider five of six candidates for our next internal intensive German course beginning in April. In preparation, personnel files and academic records have been carefully reviewed and interviews have been conducted.

2. Career counseling has been provided to employees of FE, Management Staff and the Senior Research Staff.

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3. An unusually profitable terminal interview was held with [REDACTED] of SE following completion of intensive Greek at the Army Language School. The interview brought out a good deal of information that will permit us to be more discriminating in future use of the ALS, and threw some light on the unfavorable consequences of recent discharge of most of the scientifically trained linguists and conversion to more military training attitudes and methods.

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4. [REDACTED] has prepared for [REDACTED] a list of about 200 languages for use in OP records.

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5. [REDACTED] has been designated Deputy Chief, LAS. He will continue his responsibility for Eastern Studies.

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6. Mrs. [REDACTED] has joined our staff on a half-time basis as a drill instructor in the full-time French class.

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7. A number of Agency speakers are being introduced from time to time into the intensive French course for the sake of variety in voice and expression. [REDACTED] took one of these sessions, building his talk around the advantages of using a private auto in Western Europe. Color slides from [REDACTED] trip were introduced to help describe three hard-to-reach areas in France and Luxembourg.

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8. Twelve students finished the Basic Country Survey--Germany, including three Army personnel--one from NSA and two from AMS. The students'

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critiques of the course not only produced a variety of helpful suggestions for improving the curriculum but also emphasized an acute lack of study time. No student was given a "break" by his supervisor on his work load during the time of the course, and all stressed how much more advantage they could have derived from the course with additional time allowed for study. [REDACTED] will explore the acceptability to the divisions of various plans for overcoming this criticism. He personally favors a provision for students in the survey courses to be freed from their desks for the full day, instead of the present half day, on the two days per week of class. This would allow a reasonable minimum of study time in the LAS Reading Rooms.

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9. [REDACTED] of the Medical Staff, who had approached [REDACTED] a few weeks ago regarding a proposal to combine compulsory medical briefings with the Americans Abroad Program, has informed us that [REDACTED] of DDP Staff has given tentative approval to [REDACTED] draft proposal including our suggestions. The proposal now goes to Chief, Medical Staff, with the recommendation that it be discussed with the DTR.

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10. [REDACTED] Chief of Personnel for NEA, informally consulted [REDACTED] on 15 February on the willingness and readiness of LAS to organize and operate a special 6-9 months' training program for 200 new employees. These employees are to be recruited and brought in for training in batches, for instance, of 20-30 each. They would be given various forms of training, as appropriate, including area. [REDACTED] discussed this subject with [REDACTED] on 18 February. As a result of this discussion, [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] of LAS interest in further exploration of this matter. Following suggestions made by [REDACTED] was also told that LAS would suggest coupling language with area training and recommended that a request for both be included in any memo from NEA to DTR. Mr. [REDACTED] subsequently asked [REDACTED] to draft a rough outline of the schedule of courses which LAS could prepare and give for the whole of the NEA area--the Middle East, Africa (South of the Sahara) and South Asia (India, Ceylon, Nepal, etc.). Since the 200 employees are presumably to be brought in as rapidly as the recruitment process permits, it is obvious that the magnitude of the training program thus envisioned presents no small problems--staff, space, schedules. Nevertheless, a draft of the courses will be made on the basis of what should, not what now can, be offered in order to meet this interesting and challenging DDP request.

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11. Alterations having been completed, the entire Wing G in Quarters Eye is now available for Eastern Studies and the Testing and Research Staff, providing us with a sound laboratory and recording room, a large office and testing room for [REDACTED] sufficient space for the Russian language staff and an additional classroom for language and area classes. This room, 2623, was used for the first time on Monday, the 11th, when [REDACTED] began his third offering of Americans in Japan with a class of 20.

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12. [REDACTED] course on Southeast Asia started on Monday, 4 February, with a full-time enrollment of 15.

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13. [REDACTED] Integrated Russian Language/Area course started the same day with an enrollment of 6 students.

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14. Mr. [REDACTED], Cartography Division, ORR, has directed an inquiry to [REDACTED] regarding the possibility of organizing a special course sometime in the future devoted entirely to Russian geographic reading. Action will be taken through the proper channels. It appears that the interest in "tailor made" courses is growing, and that it might be desirable to devote attention to this topic in future meetings of curriculum committees.

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15. The French Proficiency Test was given on 13 February for 8 people. Mr. [REDACTED] served on the panel for the oral test.

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16. Reports on proficiency tests were typed and sent out, clearing up a backlog of several months.

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17. [REDACTED] telephoned Mr. Rudolph Berkhouse of the Achievement Measurement Research Unit, Department of the Army, to tell him about the inter-agency meeting which is being arranged to discuss the whole problem of foreign language proficiency testing. Mr. Berkhouse was very interested and said he would be glad to attend this meeting.

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18. [REDACTED] received a recent catalog of NSA language instruction materials listing about 100 items for 25 or more languages, of which some two-thirds are currently available, while the rest are under preparation. After looking over the list, he ordered one copy of each item; if it is decided to use any of this material for classes in LAS, further copies can be ordered later.

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19. Mrs. [REDACTED] gave birth to a baby boy on 14 February. She is expected to return to work 11 March to resume her teaching duties.

20. Current enrollment in internal language training programs is 332, 133 in self-study and 199 in classes. During the past week, the language laboratory was used for a total of 401 hours by 87 students.

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